

To the Mentor,

Greetings! Thank you for agreeing to be a mentor for your Chapter and for our Order. You have a very important job. Your job is not just to ensure our new member knows what to expect in our meetings but to make them feel like they belong to our family. It is your goal to encourage their involvement in and out of the Chapter room. In order to maintain their interest, they must come. The reality is when a new member doesn't come to meetings and activities within the first month of joining you are already losing them. If they come once and then you don't talk with them afterward, either talking or at least email, then you have potentially missed an opportunity to engage them in our Order and they may not come back. When a member joins, they come knowing little about what happens in the Chapter room, it is your job to prepare them for what they will see before every meeting. Will there be balloting? What is an Official Visit? What is their role for each of these activities? Don't let them come into a meeting 'blind'. Make sure they know how to leave early or enter late. Make sure they know that open discussion is encouraged and they knew how to address the Worthy Matron so that their ideas and opinions may be heard.

The Mentor Manual was prepared to provide you with some guidance but mostly to serve as a quick look up for many common questions you may be asked. Remember that there are several references when it comes to helping answer any questions our newest members may have. It is your responsibility to help them find the answers they need. For many younger members, the internet is where they will first turn for answers. As we know there is a lot of bad information on the internet so you will need to encourage your charge to come to you with their questions along with any possible answers they may discover. It is ok if you don't know the answer to a question. Just be honest and let them know you will find out and get back to them. Don't forget to follow up.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Stowe

Grand Chapter of New Mexico OES